

Att'y Dkt. No.: STAN-202
USSN: 09/972,031

REMARKS UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Formal Matters

Claims 1-45 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and remarks made herein.

No new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 45 to more particularly to point out and distinctly claim applicants' invention. Claim 5 is amended to depend from claim 2. Support for these amendments is found in the claims as originally filed, as well as in the specification at, for example, page 7, lines 23-24; and page 14, lines 20-22.

Interview Summary

Applicants are grateful to Examiner Johansson and Examiner Benzion for the telephonic interview conducted on November 20, 2003 with the George Karlin-Neumann, Eugeni Namsaraev, and the undersigned.

All rejections of the claims were discussed, including rejections based on the art set out in the prior Office Action of July 30, 2003. The Examiners suggested that claims 1 and 45 be amended as set out herein to further clarify the claims. The Examiners further agreed to consider applicants' arguments as set out in the prior response with respect to the cited art.

Applicants note that in the Interview Summary provided by the Office, the Examiners stated that:

The examiner noted that the use of CTAB in hybridization was well known, and that the Cronin reference anticipated the claims as written, as any properties possessed by CTAB (whether disclosed or not disclosed) are inherent.

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Applicants respectfully submit that while, indeed, CTAB may have been a known compound, the prior art does not disclose a method of use of CTAB that would provide for CTAB to behave as a specific association enhancer.

Stated differently, the claimed invention is not simply directed to use of CTAB in a hybridization reaction. Rather, the claimed invention is generally directed to performing hybridization reactions under conditions suitable for accelerated association of the first and second molecules in a specific nucleic acid duplex so as to allow for discrimination between matched and mismatched duplexes at the level of a single nucleotide difference

Conclusion

Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number STAN-202.

Respectfully submitted,
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